

R. Edgren's COLUMN

Cline Demonstrates That Champion Leonard Isn't Invincible.

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BENNY LEONARD and Benny Cline fought six rounds last night that almost made the dismal trip from New York to Philadelphia on the Pennsylvania world while, extremely enthusiastic spectators might even have thought the fight worth the still more dreary trip back, on a "fight special" train that was advertised to leave Philadelphia at 10:30, and that actually left at 11 o'clock, and that was advertised to arrive in New York at 12:30, and actually arrived at 2 o'clock in the morning. Slightly less enthusiastic spectators probably made up their minds never to go to Philadelphia to another fight, and he fought home on a milk train, unless given a guarantee in advance of at least one cold knockout, with mayhem and exaggerated assault and battery on the side. In spite of the drawbacks of travel, the fight was given the once-over by a large number of New Yorkers. Some wanted to see Cline wallop Leonard, and some wanted to see Leonard wallop Cline. Both had their desires partially fulfilled.

For Benny Leonard came nearer to being knocked out than he has in quite a little while. And so did Cline. The Olympia was well filled when the bout began. A few challengers were introduced, including Joe Weiling, who was in naval uniform, being one of the lightweights. Leonard and Cline enlisted to fight for Uncle Sam. Weiling was there to challenge Leonard, but Benny's foxy staff foiled him by causing Joe to be introduced as "one of our best welterweights!"

At last the fight began. Leonard at once started after Cline, up on his toes, left arm flashing out like a rapier, left glove landing in a snappy jab right on Cline's mouth about every ten seconds. That first round was a joke. Leonard jabbed Cline at will, and Cline seemed unable to do anything in return. His face grew red under the rough manhandling of Leonard's fist.

In the second round Cline began to fight a little more effectively, and Leonard hooked him with a left, making a cut over his eye. The blow seemed to infuriate Cline, who rushed in quick little steps and mixed eagerly.

Then came the surprise. Cline, in the third, rushed Leonard hard and forced him to exchange blows. A right hook whipped to Leonard's chin made him teeter, a left hook threw him back. Leonard suddenly became slow of foot and slow of hand. He was only partly able to defend himself as Cline rushed and fought hard. Cline landed many blows, and landed them with a snap, while Benny talked protestingly to the referee. Benny's face was flushed and he was scowling, but his arms and legs were like lead, and when he tried to launch out with a right-hander the blow wouldn't have crippled a cream puff.

It looked as if Benny Leonard might be knocked out.

But he weathered the round. Throughout the fourth Cline tried with increasing eagerness, but Leonard was recovering and was using all his coolness and skill. At the end of the round, while Cline was still trying to keep the aggressive Leonard was beginning to stop his rushes with heavy jabs.

Then the fifth. Leonard was in control again. He was deliberately watching for a chance to get over a leveling right hander. Cline knew it and shifted his hitting to Leonard's body, ducking down and holding an instant to keep Benny from using that right.

Two-thirds through the round and Benny found his opening. Crack! went his gloved fist as it met Cline's chin. Cline plunged forward and fell to his knees. In an instant he was up, raging and attacking furiously.

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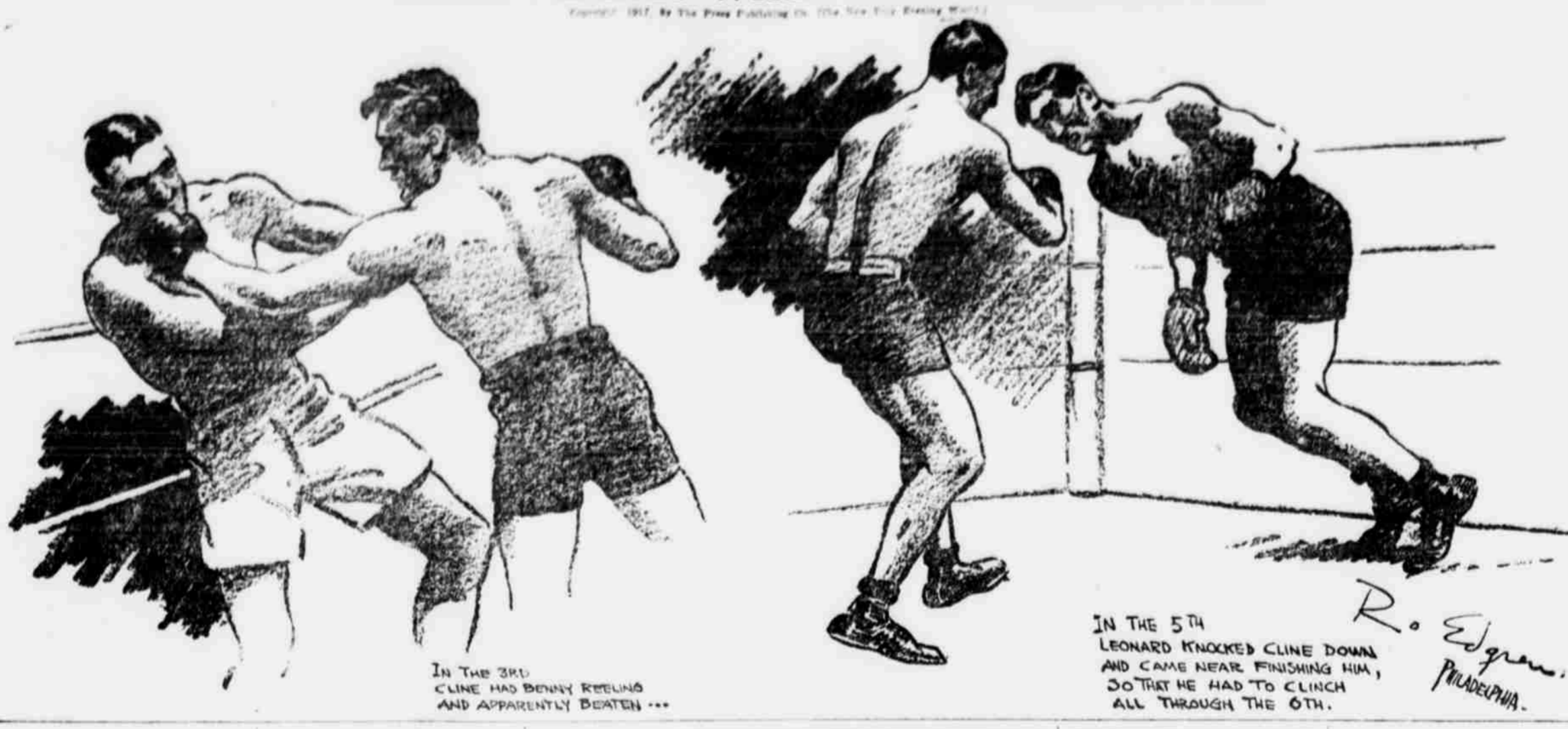
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BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

LEONARD NEARLY WHIPPED IN THIRD ROUND



IN THE 3RD CLINE HAD BENNY REELING AND APPARENTLY BEATEN ---

IN THE 5TH LEONARD KNOCKED CLINE DOWN AND CAME NEAR FINISHING HIM, SO THAT HE HAD TO CLINCH ALL THROUGH THE 6TH.

And Leonard battered him heavily as he came in, rocked him and weakened him, but failed to knock him down again.

In the fifth it was quickly evident that Cline's fighting had been done for the evening. He only lunged at Leonard and clung to him in a series of abortive clinches, trying to avoid the poised right that Henry had always in waiting for the knockout blow. The last round was all Leonard. The champion had his speed and strength again, and Cline was slow. The legs under Cline were wobbling. He was when in stalling, for it enabled him to last through the sixth round without being knocked down again, and perhaps Henry did not intend to let him last through the seventh.

Cline showed in the third round that he is likely to be dangerous to Leonard in any fight. He showed, too, that Leonard can be dated and weakened by a fairly hard and well-placed punch on the chin. It may be that Benny has lost some of his stamina by travelling around the country. He will be in better shape when he stops playing hockey from Camp Upton and goes back to his job, teaching the soldiers how to box.

Fistic News and Gossip

By John Pollock

Mike O'Dowd, the new middleweight champion, is slated to defend his title in two more bouts in the near future. The first of these scraps will be with Billy Kramer, the rugged Philadelphia middleweight, for six rounds at the National A. C. of Philadelphia on Saturday night and the second with Jack McCarron, the hard-hitting fighter of Pennsylvania, for ten rounds at a show to be brought off at Allentown, Pa., on Monday evening, Dec. 24.

For the past membership boxing show of the Pioneer Sporting Club on Tuesday evening, Steve Cherler Dowerick has arranged two ten-round bouts and three preliminaries for the occasion. Frank Dunn of Harlem will go against Jimmy Jacobs, the down fighter, in the star bout, while in the other go Red McDonald will hook up with K. O. Cline, the promising fighter of Pittsburgh.

John Warner, light promoter of Barrie, Wis., is now trying to clinch a ten-round bout between Frankie Brown of Jersey City and Pat Moore of Monmouth. The bout is to take place at the latter place on the first of January. Although Brown has beaten Moore in two ten-round bouts, Pat has improved considerably in his fights since then.

Pete Herman, bantamweight champion, has signed articles of agreement calling for him to meet Frankie Mason, the Western bantam, in a ten-round bout for the bantamweight title at Fort Wayne, Ind., sometime next month. Mason is a considerable fighter for the better of Fort Wayne, and they expect to see him give Herman a hard fight.

Tom Jones, former manager of Joe Willard but who now looks after the interests of Bryan Drayton, the crack welterweight of Columbus, Ga., is a letter in this office says that he has matched Drayton to meet Johnny Griffin, the good welterweight of Akron, O., in a twelve-round bout on New Year's afternoon. The bout will be held at Akron, O., which is a great city for the boxing game.

If nothing develops to upset arrangements that have been made, we will see a match between two of the best of the middleweight class in a ten-round bout at the Metropolitan Club on New Year's afternoon. The officials that staged the Harry Green-John Dillon bout at Fort Wayne last year last summer have been particularly good in their selection of bouts. Mike of St. Paul for ten rounds.

Al Lipow, manager of Jeff Smith, the crack middleweight of Baltimore, Md., is certainly having considerable trouble in matching Jeff for a bout as all of the stars of that class pass up Smith whenever they are offered a match with him. Lipow has finally succeeded in getting Kid Slesinger of Washington, D. C., to meet Smith in a fifteen-round bout at Annapolis, Md., on Dec. 20.

Billy Group will conduct a boxing programme for his pupils and members to-night in his gymnasium in Harlem. Chief Turner, the Indian boxer, will meet Jack London in a ten-round scrap.

\$50,000. AND A STRING ON THAT. ALL INVOLVED IN ALEXANDER'S SALE

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—It was learned from a trustworthy source here to-day that the money consideration involved in the sale of Pittsburgh Grover C. Alexander and Catcher William Kuller by the Philadelphia National League Club to the Chicago Nationals is \$50,000 and not \$40,000. Of this amount \$25,000 is to be paid at once and the remainder is to be turned over before the 1918 season opens, provided Alexander is not drafted into the National Army before that time.

Kramer Defeats Most Formidable Rivals in Sprints

Frank Kramer defeated his two most formidable rivals, Arthur Spencer of Toronto, the present champion, and Alfred Goulet, the winner of the six-day race, in a special mile match at Madison Square Garden last night. The veteran met Spencer in the final heat and both outrode and out-jockeyed the younger man.

In the other trial the first meeting between Spencer and Goulet had to be re-run, due to an accident to Goulet's saddle. Just before the midway Spencer, who had been trailing, jumped from the bank and took the lead.

When they came out for the second attempt, Spencer allowed the Australian to get the pace for a couple of laps and then taking the lead kept it to the finish.

The large crowd of probably 7,000 persons was enthusiastic, giving encouragement to the victor. Kramer, of New York, again proved himself an exception being the motor by defeating George Wiley, the former champion from Syracuse.

In the decisive heat of five miles, Kramer, who had been leading, was won by Chris Dotter, Welsh of the National Guard. This was a surprise, as Dotter had finished third in the half-mile handicap. Great Eggar, hero of the six-day race, won the 24-hour endurance race, which was held under way in Madison Square.

The other three teams that have been named for the bantamweight race are Clarence Carman and Fred Hill; Percy Lawrence and George Wiley; and Victor Linhart and Frank Carey. Two alternatives are Eddie Madden and Fred Herbert and they will fill in whatever any of the camping riders is temporarily disabled.

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"Bugs" Baer at Baseball Meeting

Barney Sticks His Thumb Into Every Baseball Pie—He Not Only Fails to Get a Plum, but He Generally Loses His Thumbnail.

By Arthur ("Bugs") Baer.

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THE National League Baseball meeting has evaporated and Peacock Alley is as empty as a sugar bowl in Mrs. Childs's restaurant. Peacock Alley seems to be just as appropriately named as a Welsh rabbit. A chemical analysis of a Welsh rabbit fails to reveal either any Welsh or any rabbit. All it consists of is a lot of cheese. A peacock is a beautiful bird, but has no voice, while a baseball magnate is an ugly duckling with a wonderful set of laryngeal pyrotechnics.

A meeting of baseball magnates is a riot with no arrests. Peacock Alley has been clogged for the last three days with baseball merchants, rumormongers and gossip clerks. These chatter impresarios have done everything from releasing Walter Johnson to the Bolsheviks to asking for waivers on the Kaiser. The boys squawked long and loud for three days and three nights, and it will cost the Waldorf a lot of money for amnesia to massage the sprained acoustics of Peacock Alley.

When Ill' Jack Horner established the pleasant custom of wearing his thumb in the Christmas pie he had no competition. Jack extracted his thumb from the pie tournament with a nice plum dangling in the breeze. But he was playing a solo. There were about 300 official thumbs stuck in the pie at the National League meeting, but the only thumb that bobbed up with a plum attached belonged to Charley Weeghman.

The plum was Grover Cleveland Alexander and Philly fans are now wearing their chins at half-mast. Attila the Hun never sacked Rome any more copiously than Weeghman sacked Philadelphia. It is safe to predict that the 1918 baseball season in William Penn's estate is leader than three barrels of herring and just as pleasing to the olfactory nerves. Yes, no.

Barney Dreyfuss also introduced his thumb into the plum pudding, but Barney didn't get any plums. Barney sticks his thumb into every baseball pie. He not only fails to get a plum, but he generally loses his thumbnail.

By absorbing Grover Cleveland Alexander, the Chicago team had to part with \$20,000 in winter league money. Which is equal to about 75 cents and a soda cracker in American coin. The Cubs must also pay Alex \$12,000 a year salary and supply three lumps of sugar for his daily coffee. That last item sinks the boat. In all, Weeghman has fined himself about 100 grand. A grand is \$1,000. That Alexander deal was certainly some large dam-foose, and we understand that Pat Moran won't stand for being paid on the Hears-Roebuck system.

Extracting Alex. from the Phils is just like eliminating the rains from rosin cake. It makes the Phils the shock regiment of the National League, although Pat Moran claims the Phils can finish the winter without Alex. Maybe so, but it is a corrugated ante to play on the Phils, considering that we are all little Americans together.

That was about the only grenade that exploded during the meeting. About eleven minutes were tossed, but most of 'em had moist fuses or were squibs. Gov. Tener has accepted the Presidency for another season, which is nice for the Governor, but fails to put any coal in your cellar. The Gov. said he didn't give a hoot in Hades whether he got the job or not, which is generally the way to get a job.

The International League was inoculated with the germs of evaporation and is now hanging by a whisker. The war unraveled the baseball season in Canada and the league is suffering from flat arches of the finances. The magnates aren't sure whether to give it either or to let it suffer.

Which about sums up the works. The magnates went through the usual routine, which made it touch on the waltzers' feet. They decided to migrate out to Chicago and hold a joint conference in that neck-of-the-woods.

Syracuse is glad that the magnates are going to meet in Chicago, as Syracuse is enjoying a beautiful blizzard and doesn't want it spoiled. One of the finest coats who blew into town wearing a brown derby. It doesn't take much to soil a winter.

Manager Robby claims he had three million to spend on new players for the Robins, provided that anybody would take tobacco coupons.

Alexander's contract is subject to the draft, earthquakes, rain, flat feet, war, sunburn, strikes and dandruff.

If the International can struggle through until the autumn of 1918 the magnates can pay the players off in leaves.

Matty is after Rube Margard. Apparently, Matty doesn't want to make a runaway race out of it.

WELL, IT'S OVER.

BUT THE WAR IS STILL GOING ON.

Sharkey and Flessner Bont a Draw.

HERZOG MAKES DEMAND THAT HE BE RELEASED FROM MCGRAW'S TEAM

Charley Herzog has asked President Hempstead to release him from the Giants. He makes the request on the ground that ill feeling exists between him and members of the club. It will be remembered that Herzog quit the Giants during the last weeks of the pennant race last fall, saying he needed a rest. According to Manager McGraw and President Hempstead he had no permission to do so, and was accordingly suspended. He returned to the team in time to take part in the World Series. It is evident that he and McGraw have not since been on good terms. Whether or not Herzog will be released or forced to continue as a Giant is up to President Hempstead. Weeghman of the Chicago Cubs is angling for him and so is Manager Matthewson of the Reds. Herzog's \$10,000 contract with the Giants has another year to run.

Rogers Scores Easy Victory in Mat Tournament

Joe Rogers defeated Pierre Le Biege in their final match in the wrestling tournament at the Lexington Theatre last night in 11 minutes and 35 seconds. Rogers gained the fall with a leg and inside arm lock.

Tussit Hoesana, otherwise the Balkan Bone-Crusher, and Sula Hevonpaa, the German Schafer of wrestling, wrangled for twenty minutes to a draw.

In the twenty-minute matches Tommy Drank and George Manich went to a draw; Charles Possibill threw Harry Stevens in 11:10 with a scissor and double nelson, and Pilafof downed Tom McDermott in 14:35 with a flying mare hold.

Stranger Lewis, who won such a sensational match with Ivan Linnow last Tuesday night, will come back in harness against Le Biege in the world's catch-as-catch-can tourney to-night. The head lock, which proved so deadly, is still allowed, although most of the wrestlers in the tournament are against it.

To-morrow night Carl Caddock, the conqueror of Joe Stecher, known as "Conqueror of a thousand holds, and the man who lays claim to the world's champion title, will positively appear, accompanied by Mrs. Caddock, who, by the way, is a war bride, and Manager Gene Melade.

Caddock is now in the service of Uncle Sam, stationed at Fort Dodge, New Mexico, La. In the same camp is Mike Cichone of St. Paul, and the two have become warm friends since they met for the first time in the army post. To-night's card:

Twenty-minute limit matches—John Horner (Delaware Peach) vs. Hans Assem (Cuban); Ivan Linnow (Czechoslovak) vs. John Fries (Sweden); Wladok Zhayevski (Polish Hercules) vs. Demetrius Tufalar (Greek Adonis); George Matich (Serbian) vs. Frans Leavitt (U. S. Army champion).

Finish Matches (two hour limit)—Yusuf Hussains (Belgian Bone Crusher) vs. Sula Hevonpaa (Finn); Dr. R. Heller (American) vs. Charles Possibill (Bohemian); Pierre Le Biege (Belgian) vs. Ed "Strangler" Lewis (Kentucky).

Ed Barrow has resigned as President of the International League, to take effect on Feb. 12. That \$5,000 cut in salary on Tuesday was just a little more than Ed Barrow could stand, and it took him only a few hours to decide that he wanted nothing more of the job. Barrow has been President of the International League for seven years.

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By William Abbott.

A collection of old clubs and balls is being made at golf clubs around New York to send to the army cantonments where many golfers are stationed, who could frequently work in a few shots but for lack of facilities. Ground around the Southern cantonments is particularly suited for golf. The Southern sand can be easily piled and rolled into bunkers and a fair course could be quickly laid out.

In line with the Government's policy of encouraging all healthy sports, golfers in camp would enjoy nothing better than to poke around with a driver or midiron, except they don't possess the necessary equipment or the means of procuring it. It is to remedy this condition that clubs hereabouts are collecting shipments to send south. The Canoe Brook Club this week sent several gross of clubs and balls to the enlisted men.

So round up your old equipment and turn it in at the club, so that it may be sent to some camp.

Albert Clay, a noted Canadian professional, stepped in long enough yesterday on his way to Brunswick, Fla., to report that while all the young members of the Toronto Club were in service, the sport during the last season was especially brisk, considering conditions across the border.

Gardiner White, champion of the Flushing Club and one of the best players in the metropolitan district, was all prepared to go to Yaphank when William T. Yallop, Chairman of District 135 of Queens, White's district, discovered that the board's quota of 40 could be completed without including White, though the noted golfer's name had been posted to go with the quota. White, after learning the good news, just about made Manhattan Isle in three jumps for Governor's Island, where he promptly enlisted.

Put Harold Hilton, the great English amateur, on a hard course, and it's like dropping his ball every time into a trap. The noted star, for a man so slight, takes a tremendous amount of turf with all his shots, even with iron clubs off the tee. Hilton on a hard course was always up against it, because he couldn't plough up enough turf.

Miss Eleka Strilker, the nineteen-year-old national champion, will soon leave for France, where she will drive an ambulance.

If the delegates at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Golf Association in this city the other night had started a discussion as to the advisability of resuming competitive play, the chances are that many a good word would have been spoken for tournaments. There is a growing feeling that if the Executive Committee gives any encouragement at several of the nearby clubs will arrange for short tournaments.

Now that the snow has interfered with further competitive work, the greens at the Deal Golf Club, Pat Loebe, the professional in charge, has practically given up further work there for the winter. He is planning to go south shortly to take part in a few of the open meetings.

If the young golfers, such as A. L. Walker of Richmond County, holder of the Eastern interschool title, states, Richmond County and Columbia titles; Fred Wright of Boston; S. D. Herron of Princeton; and Richard Haight, a Princeton freshman, are given the same season they will be hard to defeat in tournaments. All won honors during the past year.

Yanks May Secure Pratt.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—There is a possibility that Del Pratt, second baseman of the American League, will be traded to New York before the end of the week. Col. Ruppert said to-day he was prepared to offer cash or players for him. Pratt has a \$100,000 suit alleging Del pending against President Ball of the St. Louis Club and is known to be anxious to play elsewhere.

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BOWLERS TO MAKE DRIVE FOR A FUND OF A MILLION DOLLARS

Plan to Have Every Prominent Pin Knight Rally to the Cause.

The countless clubs and individual bowlers throughout the country will soon start out on a drive for \$1,000,000, to be known as the Bowlers' War Relief Fund of the United States. This fund will be used exclusively to ease the lot of bowlers who become disabled in war service. The process of organization is now being worked out to facilitate every bowler from ocean to ocean and between the two borders in doing his bit for the fund.

The first definite steps in this direction were taken last evening at a special meeting at Joe Thum's, at which a temporary committee consisting of Joe Thum, President; S. S. Childs, Treasurer, and William A. Skeneb, Secretary, was formed to start in motion the collection machinery for the million dollars.

It is the plan of the fund projectors to have every prominent bowler rally to the cause. Although thousands of parades have already responded to the call, it is figured that by placing a nominal sum of \$1 on each bowler not yet in service that the fund will run well over the million mark.

Every one who contributes will receive a souvenir receipt and every cent collected will be devoted for the purpose of the fund to equipment of parades and disabled bowler soldiers and sailors. It is figured that the bank interest will be more than enough to cover the necessary expenses for the collection and distribution of the fund.

The idea of the Bowlers' War Relief Fund originated with Joe Thum, who has ever been progressive in the interest of the alley sport. It was the veteran's plan first to demonstrate the willingness of bowlers to do their share and to provide additional assistance not so much in the form of amusements but substantial aid for bowlers when they come back home disabled—a time when a helping hand is especially welcome for war cripples.

YOU'D HARDLY BELIEVE THIS ABOUT PITCHERS.

Frank G. Gilbreth, efficiency expert of Providence, R. I., watches ball games when he isn't figuring out how to save a sheet of paper a year for "the firm," but even on the ball field he can't help expending a little, and he decided to find out how fast a pitched ball travels.

According to his test, the fast ball of some speed pitchers travels as fast as 24 miles a minute. Previous experiments in baseball speed have been conducted along the line of electric controls. Mr. Gilbreth devised something entirely new, and it is probable his work will be greatly extended.

Behind the catcher, he had a blackboard measured off in squares. There was also a clock with one hand which made six revolutions per second. Moving pictures of the various stunts were then taken, and the positions of the clock hand to the blackboard enabled him to count the time required by noting the difference in the position of the hand.

Gilbreth found some exceptionally fast pitchers, who delivered a ball at the rate of 2.88 miles per minute. In that case, the batter occupied 0.04 second in swinging at the ball, but the most surprising point is that the photographic machine showed that the batter began to swing on that fast one when it was 234 feet away from him.

When the mathematics of pitching are brought home in such forcible manner, the wonder is not that there is so little hitting, but that there is so much—indeed, that there is any at all.

To Hold Joint Meeting To-Morrow.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 12.—Club owners of the American League have decided to hold a joint meeting with the owners of the National League in this city to-morrow. This was about the only important action taken. No \$100,000 deals were made and no negotiations developed, but the owners ran off a lot of routine business and then adjourned until 1 o'clock to-day.

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